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EIGHTBALL

BY Daniel Clowes

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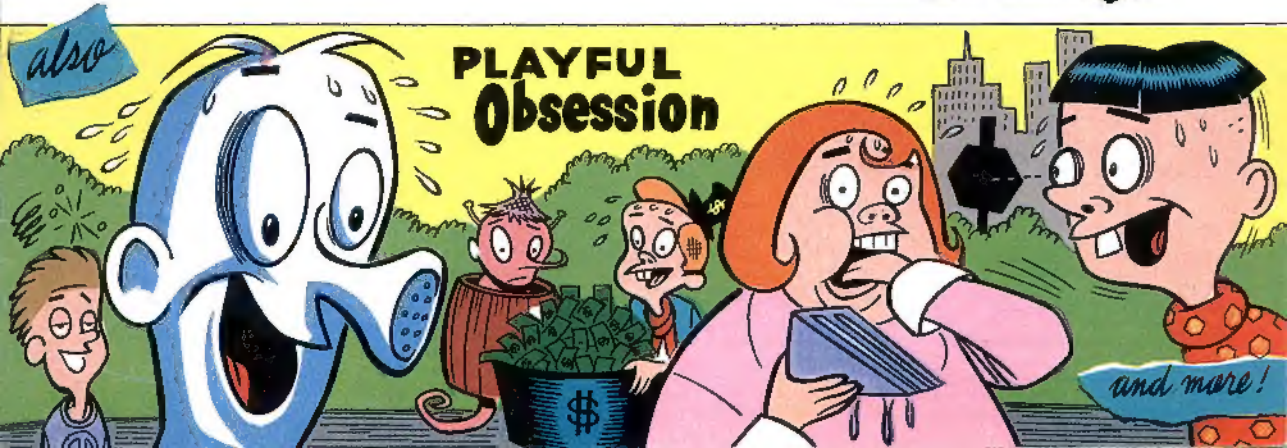

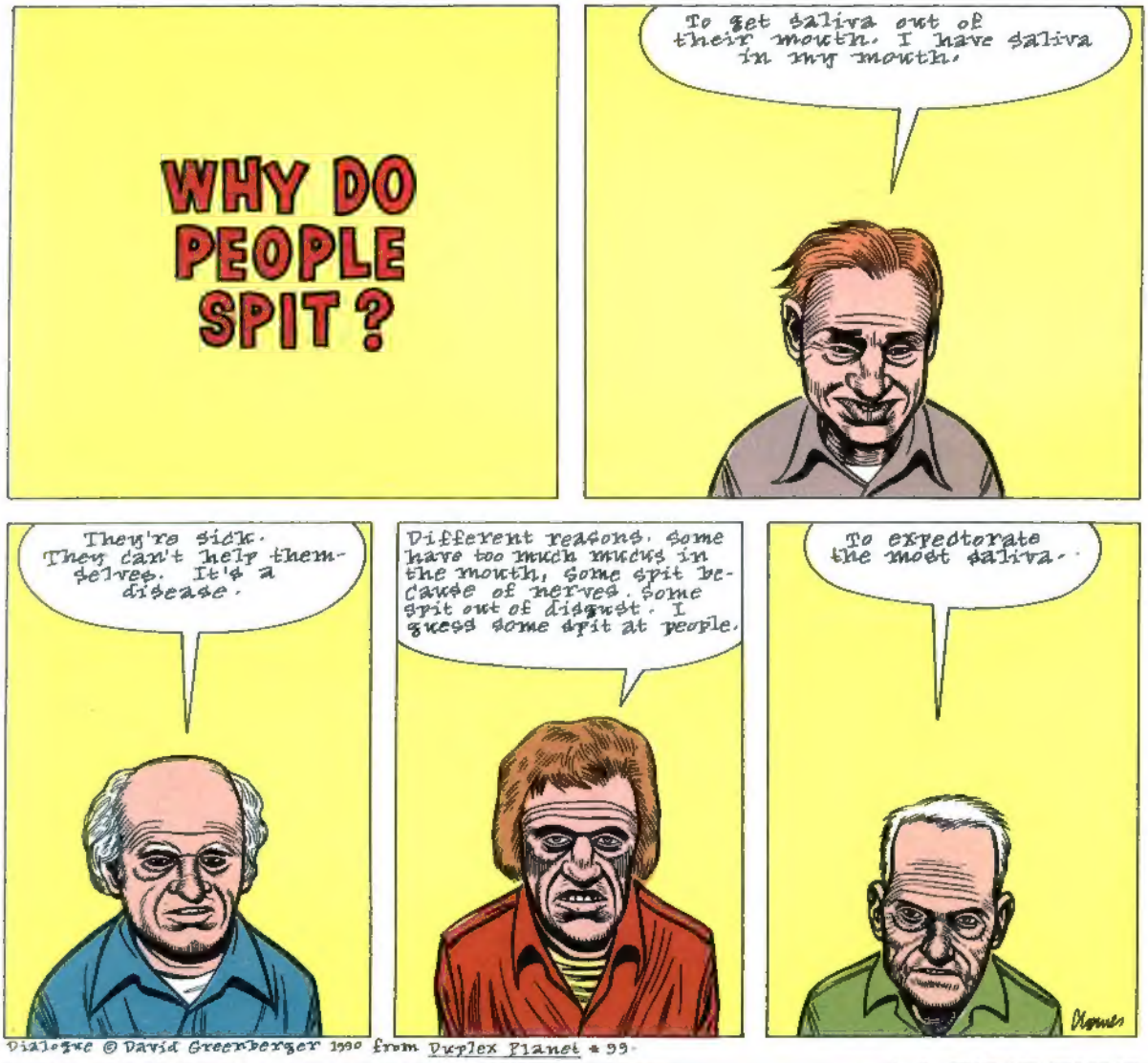

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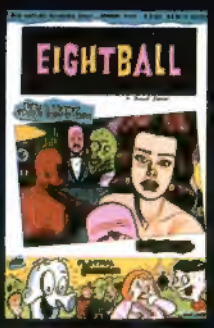

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Like a Velvet Glove cast in Iron

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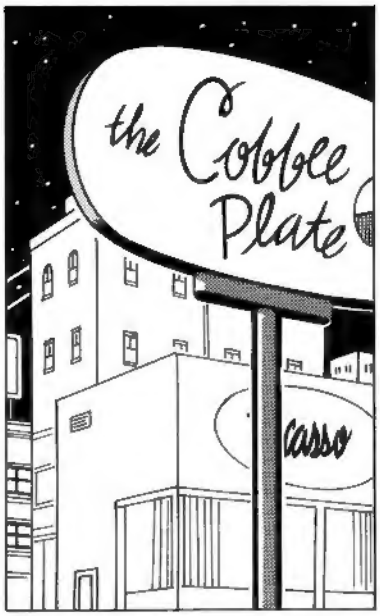
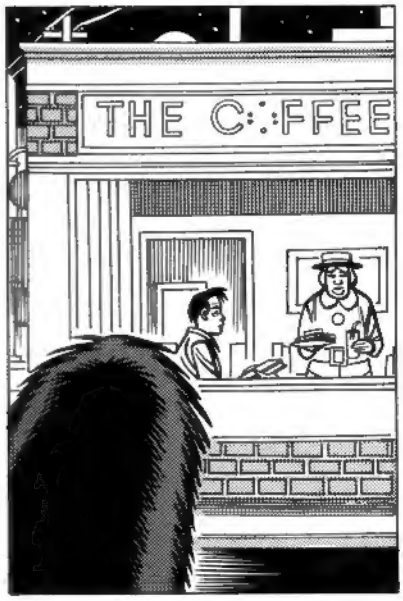
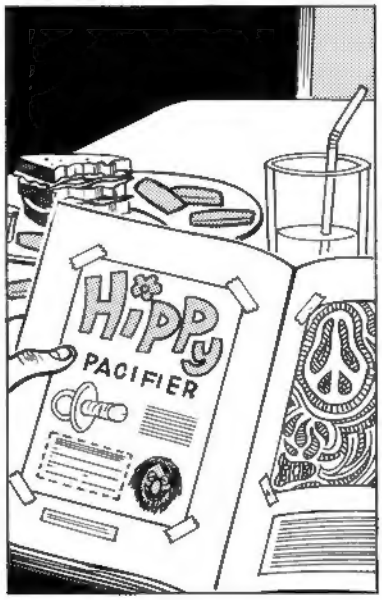
HOBO'S FINE FOOD
JELLY DOG
FINK


the Cobble Plate
casso

GO ON! SHOO! GET LOST!
FREE


THE C::FFEE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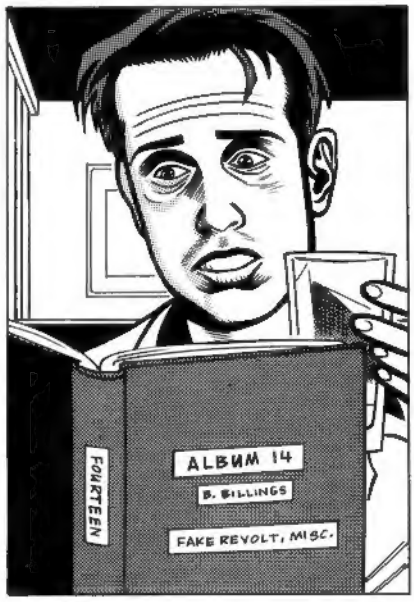

FOURTEEN
ALBUM 14
B. BILLINGS
FAKE REVOLT, MISC.

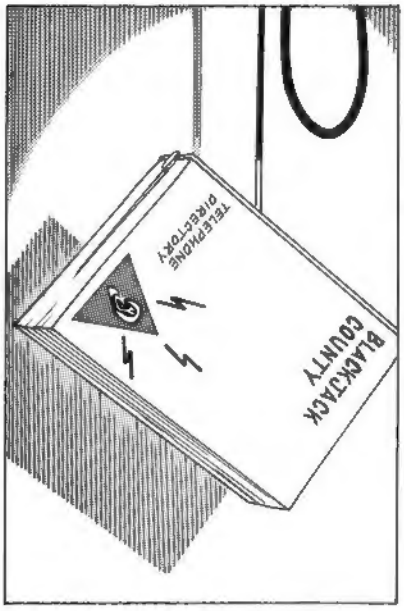
BILLINGS AND LAURA
ARBOR DAY

ANYTHING ELSE?

UH... JUST THE CHECK.

10

COME AGAIN!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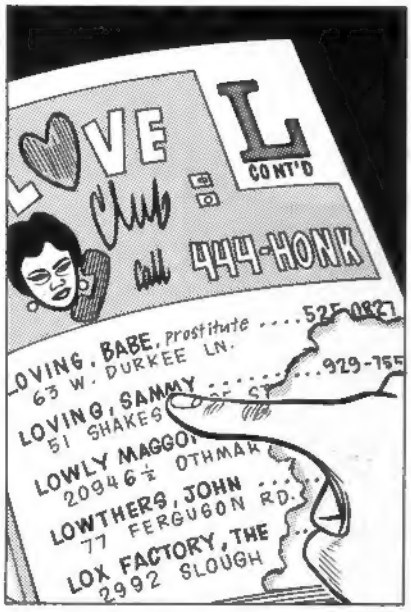
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call 444-HONK
LOVING, BABE, prostitute 525-0827
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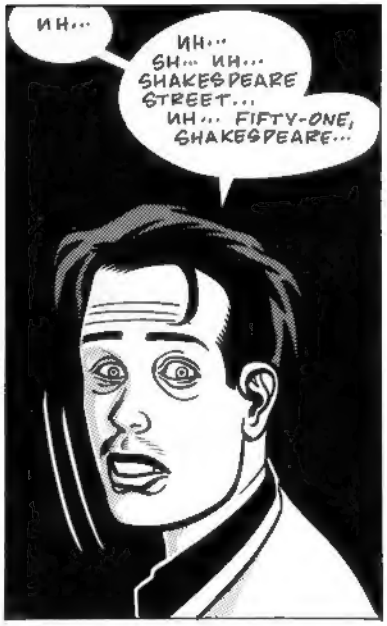
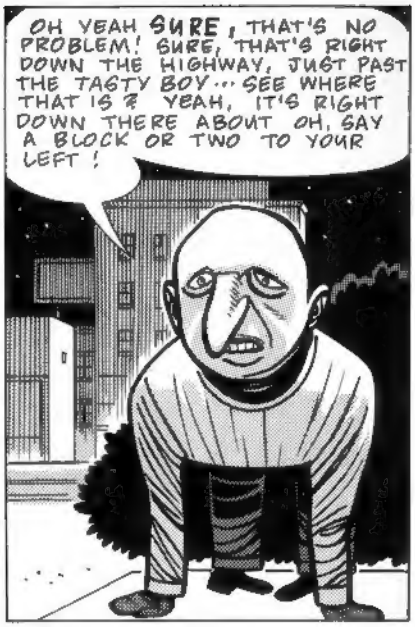
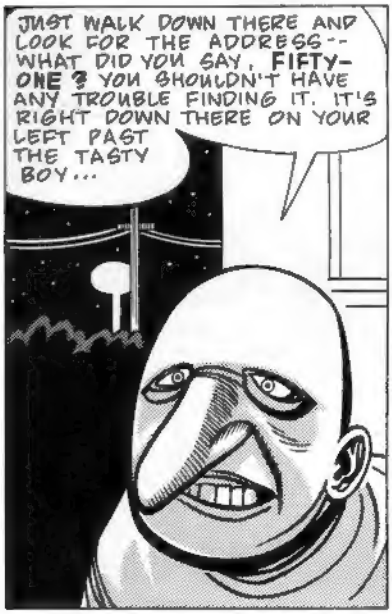
LOWTHERS, JOHN
77 FERGUSON RD.
LOX FACTORY, THE
2992 SLOUGH

HI "LAURA"
OPEN

HEY! CAN I HELP YOU FIND SOMETHING?
UH, YEAH... I'M LOOKING FOR--


UH...
UH... SH... UH... SHAKESPEARE STREET... UH... FIFTY-ONE, SHAKESPEARE...


OH YEAH SURE, THAT'S NO PROBLEM! SURE, THAT'S RIGHT DOWN THE HIGHWAY, JUST PAST THE TASTY BOY... SEE WHERE THAT IS? YEAH, IT'S RIGHT DOWN THERE ABOUT OH, SAY A BLOCK OR TWO TO YOUR LEFT!

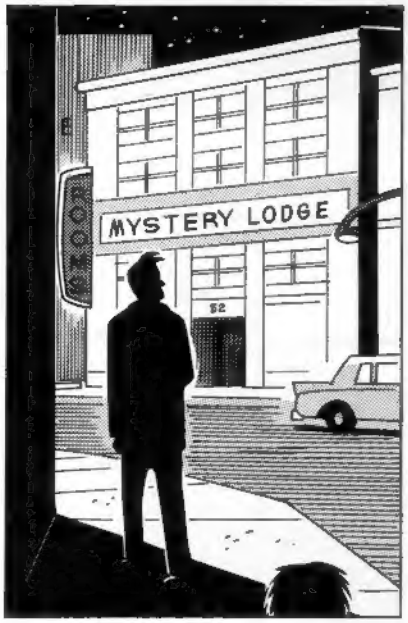

JUST WALK DOWN THERE AND LOOK FOR THE ADDRESS-- WHAT DID YOU SAY, FIFTY-ONE? YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE FINDING IT. IT'S RIGHT DOWN THERE ON YOUR LEFT PAST THE TASTY BOY...

THAT WON'T TAKE YOU MORE THAN OH, SAY A FEW MINUTES TO WALK DOWN THERE AND YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE FINDING--
OKAY.. I-I'M SORRY BUT I'VE REALLY GOT TO GO.. I'M LATE! THANKS!

I-I'M VERY LONELY. DO YOU THINK WE COULD GET TOGETHER LATER?

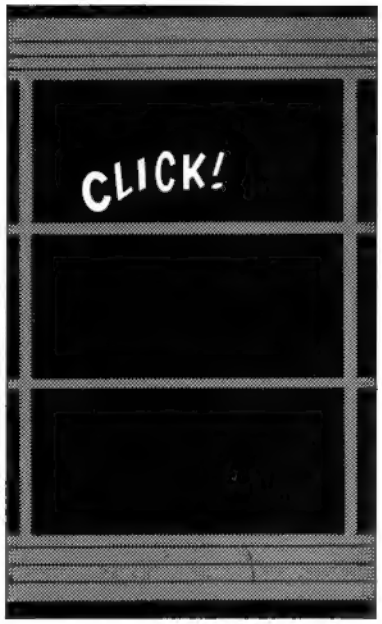
IT WAS REALLY NICE TO TALK TO YOU, GOODBYE.
TACO

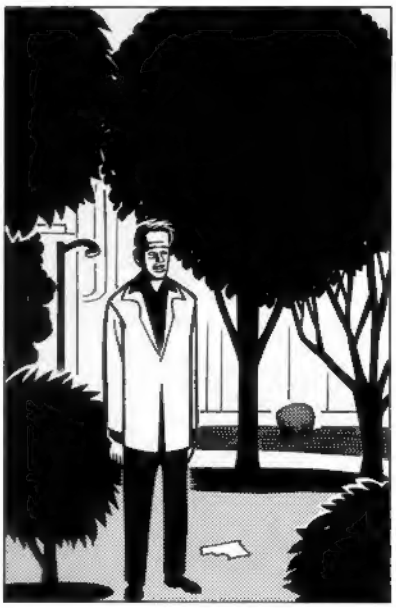
Tasty Boy


ROOMS
MYSTERY LODGE
52

ERY LODGE
52

51


CLICK!



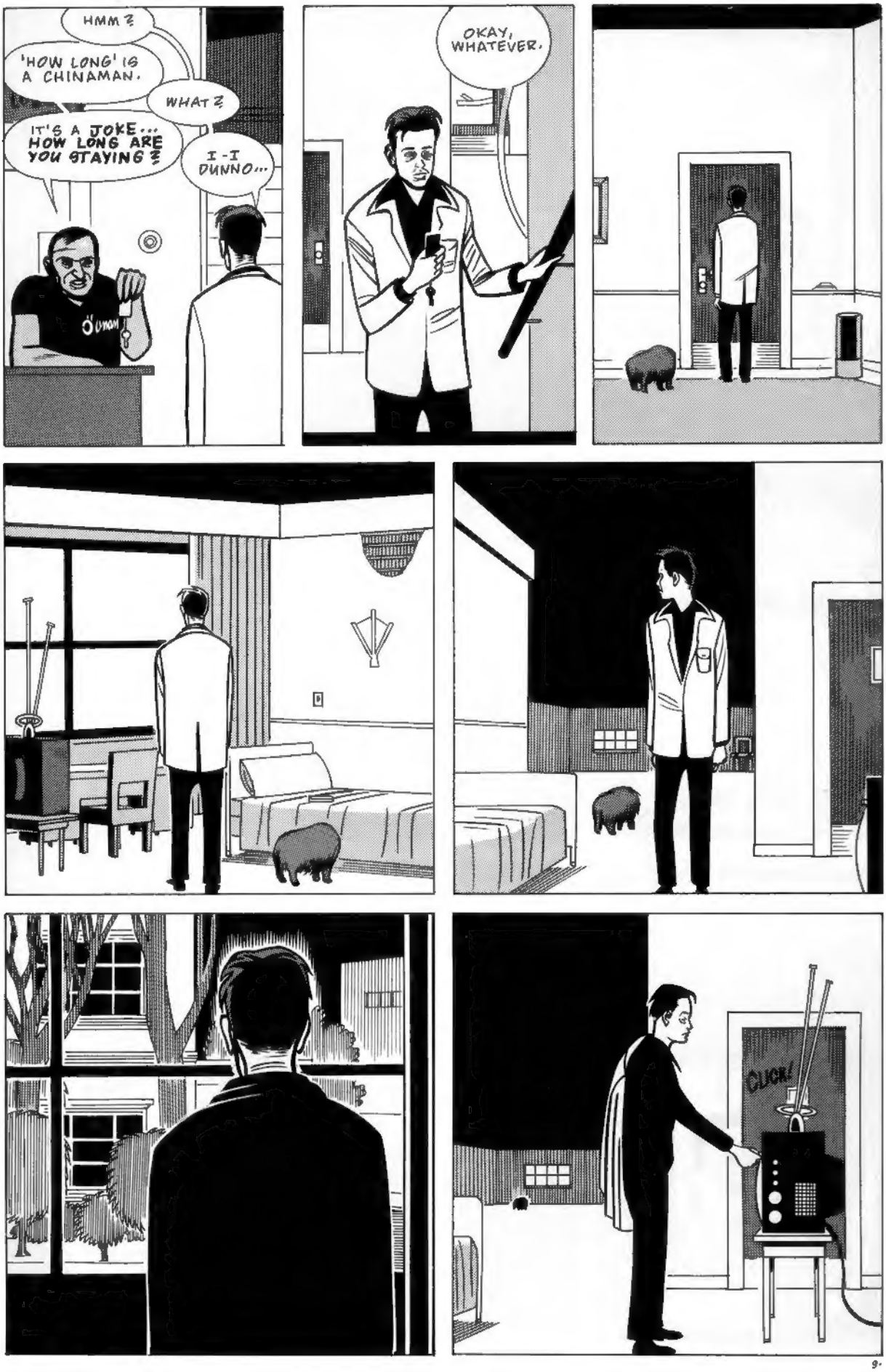
MYSTERY
52

"CASH ONLY"
MYSTERY LODGE
DING!

YOU WANT A ROOM?
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT FACES THE STREET?

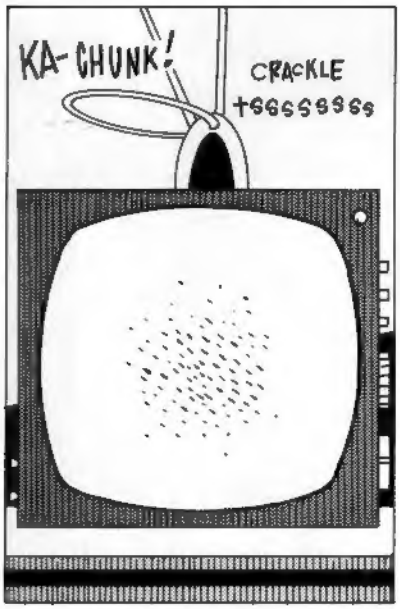
JUST YOU AND THE DOG?
...WELL, I'M NOT...

HEY MAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE EXCUSES, I SEEN ALL KINDS OF SHIT IN HERE!
HOW LONG?


HMM?
'HOW LONG' IS A CHINAMAN.
WHAT?
IT'S A JOKE... HOW LONG ARE YOU STAYING?
I-I DUNNO...
OKAY, WHATEVER.
CLICK!

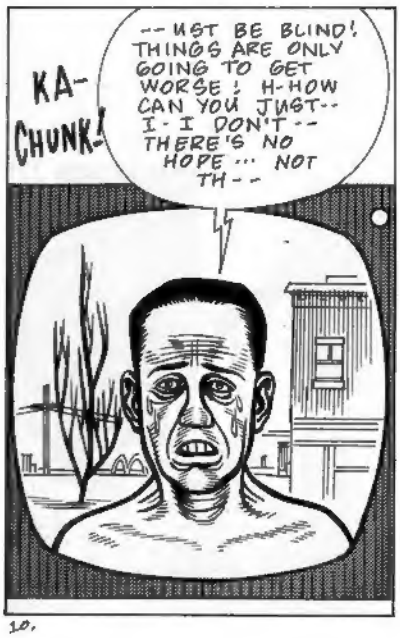
KA-CHUNK!
--ILITANT WOMEN'S GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES" ETHEL'S BIG DAUGHTERS" HAVE TAKEN CREDIT FOR THE RECENT SLEW OF BOMBINGS THAT INCLUDE YESTERDAY'S ATTACK ON THE ALL-MALE PAPYRUS CLUB WHICH TOOK 157 LIVES...
B

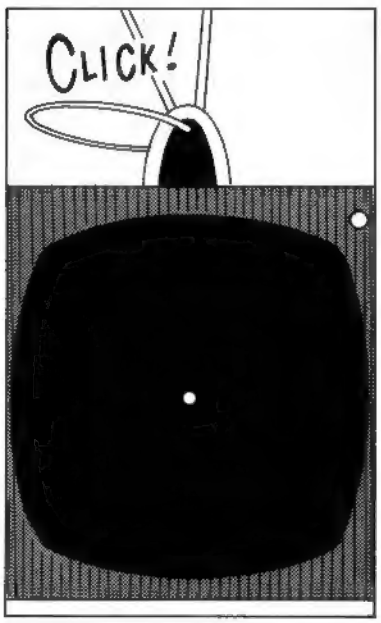
THE BOMBINGS ARE BEING CALLED "A RESPONSE" TO RECENT ATTACKS ON FEMALE CELEBRITIES, AND SPECIFICALLY THE "HARUM SCARUM" MURDERS, SO CALLED BECAUSE THAT PHRASE HAS BEEN FOUND SCRAWLED IN BLOOD AT THE SCENE OF SEVERAL APPARENTLY RELATED HOMICIDES.
AND NOW FOR TODAY'S "CHUCKLER..."


KA-CHUNK!
CRACKLE
tsssssss

KA-CHUNK!
--AND SO THEN THE FRENCH GUY GOES, "IF I HAD TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN I'D DO IT ALL OVER YOU!"
HA-HA HA HA HA

KA-CHUNK!
--EDNESDAY ON "HULLIGAN'S WHARF," HULLIGAN AND THE BOYS PULL OFF THEIR GREATEST SCAM!
BEAT THAT, AMERICA!


KA-CHUNK!
--UST BE BLIND! THINGS ARE ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE! H-HOW CAN YOU JUST-- I-I DON'T-- THERE'S NO HOPE... NOT TH--


CLICK!

CLICK!

CLANK CLANK
CLANK CLANK CLANK
CLANK CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
Does that hurt? .. Your foot?
Wh-- JESUS CH--
No.. I-I'm okay.
SCRAPE SCRAPE SCRAPE SCRAPE

♫ There go I-I-I ... with the face of a stranger...
HA HA HA

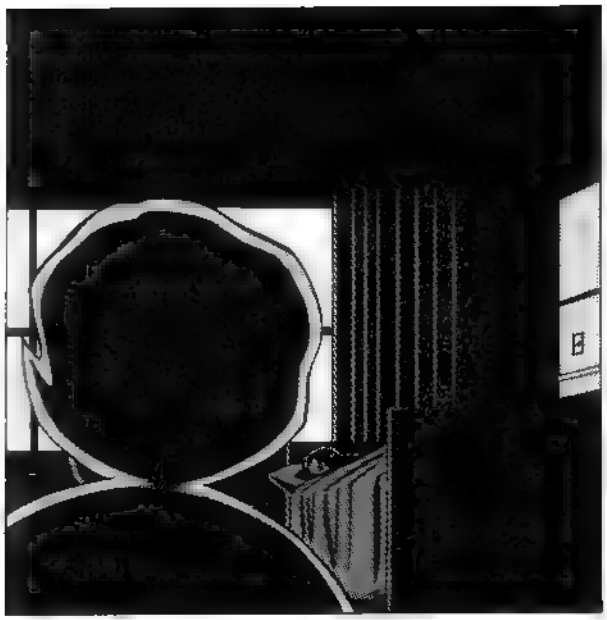
DON'T PUSH ME, MOTHER-FUCKER!
SHHH! CALM DOWN!

FUCK! WHAT AM I--
LOOK--JUST STAY IN HERE TIL MORNING... NOBODY'S GONNA BOTHER YOU, THERE'S A GUY ASLEEP IN HERE...

WHO?
SHH! HE'S ASLEEP! A GUEST, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

JUST SIT TIGHT AND KEEP QUIET!
LOCK THE DOOR!

CLICK!
LOCK IT!



EEEEEEK!

EEEEEK!
CLICK!

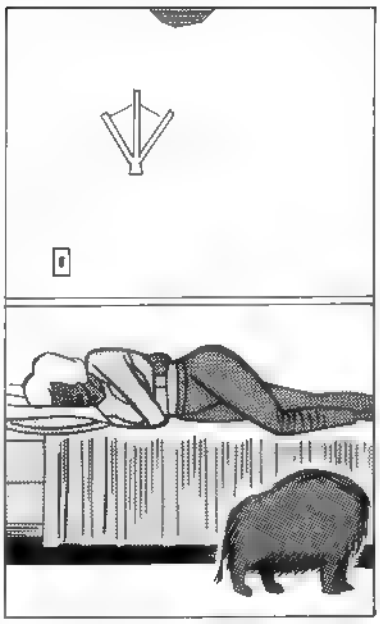
OH JESUS CHRIST =PANT= ... IT'S JUST A FUCKIN' DOG! =PANT=

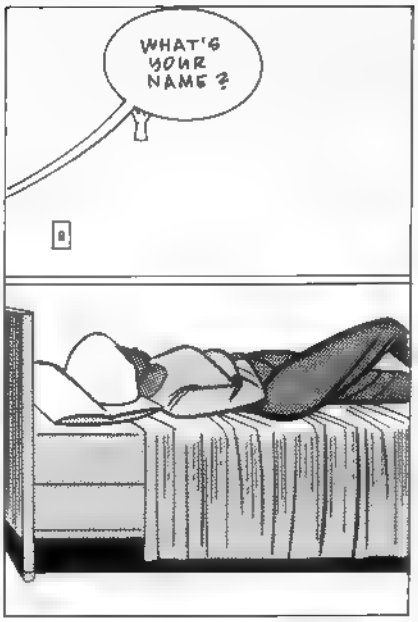
..I-- UH.. I THINK THIS IS MY ROOM..
YEAH.. HEY, DO YOU MIND IF I STAY HERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE?

I. UH.. YEAH... I GUESS.. IF YOU WANT...

=COFF= WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU IN TROUBLE?
FUCK! HELL YES!

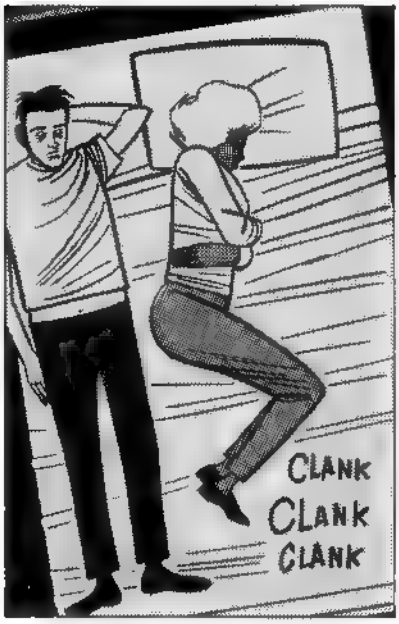
...WHAT'S YOUR DOG'S NAME?
=YAAAAAAWN=
..I'M TIRED AS SHIT.
UM... LAURA.




WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

KZZZZZ

CLICK!
CLANK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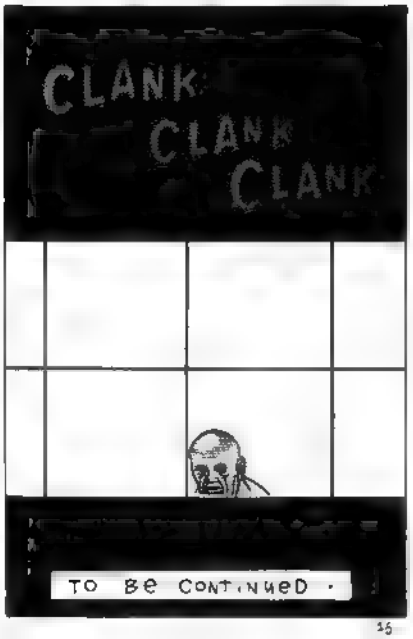
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
TO BE CONTINUED.

OH THOSE FUCKIN' LETTERS

Write to: EIGHTBALL
BOX 3357
CHICAGO, IL
60654

Goddam! Eightball is a good book. Funny provocative and anything but bland.
I wish I had something more clever to say about it but I'm too blown away.
Best to you,

Eddie Gorodetsky
New York, N.Y.

Reading Eightball is like coming down off bad acid and it's Three thirty in the morning and there's a sink full of dirty dishes and nothing on TV except Banacek reruns and you're all out of cigarettes. Beautiful!!
Keep it up,

Palmer Vreedeez
San Francisco, CA.

So, I'm at the San Diego Comic convention and the night before we started out on Guinness and worked our way up to warm, sweet, red wine and greasy, meaty pizza and the next day I wake up at about 4:30 AM feeling real bad and I don't get back to sleep and I feel real bad, so I start reading Eightball #4 and it's one of the best comics I've ever seen, but like I said, I feel real bad and I realize I'm gonna throw up so I carefully lay the book down on the floor next to the toilet and continue to read as I puke.
Regards,

George Parsons
Marysville, CA.

...I've read at least six reviews of Eightball and none came even close to explaining your work. Proof positive that professional critics are full o' shit!!

Yours,

Mary Fleener
Encinitas, CA.

FOR ALL YOU UNINFORMED DULLARDS IN OUR READING AUDIENCE, MS. FLEENER IS A GREAT CARTOONIST WHO KEEPS GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME AND DESERVES YOUR ATTENTION AND RESPECT. HER GLUTBURGER STORIES IS A FOUR-STAR MYLAR-BAG CLASSIC THAT SHOULD BE ON EVERY COLLECTORS' WANT-LIST!

At this comic shop I go to, there's this guy who looks just like [Dan Pussey] that works there who only reads infantile art. Well, people started making fun of him and began calling him "Young Dan Pussey" out of spite, he took all the Eightball #3's, put a red slash on 'em and put 'em on the 25¢ discount rack!
Tenderly yours,

Mike Parlette
Fair Oaks, ca.

The reason you persecute us "Pussey-types" and the adult graphic fantasy sequential fiction literature that we love to draw is because you're not good enough to draw superhero comics! So stay Dynamic Anatomy and stop putting down what you don't understand!
Sincerely,

Don Simpson
Pittsburgh, PA.

...say, did you ever notice that the name Peter Bagge is almost an anagram for Bette Page?

Best,

Jay Lynch
Chicago, IL.

P.S. Eightball #4 is fantastic!

I've read a comic that made me cry, but I never read one that made me feel like an asshole until now. "Bill" (NAME CHANGED TO PROTECT INNOCENCE -- D.C.) introduced me to you in his shop a couple months ago. I thought "What a cool guy. Nice to meet the dude "Bill" has been raving about for the last two weeks." I said something really stupid like "Hey maybe you and me could combine forces and make a story ... like you pencil and I ink ..." You politely blew me off. Okay. You did it well.
So I finally read an issue of Eightball and there was a sequence patterned after our very conversation in which somebody the artist character has never met begins to suggest that the two of them should make a comic. If you wanted to make me feel like a Dan Pussey, you've done it. I hope you're happy.
By the way, I really enjoyed #'s 3 & 4. They were really funny. If you really want to be an original creator though, you might want to stop pissing people off. Every great artist is loved for his work and not his personality. You can hate everybody (as I do) without making them angry. Give it a try...

Sam Sistler
Chicago, IL.

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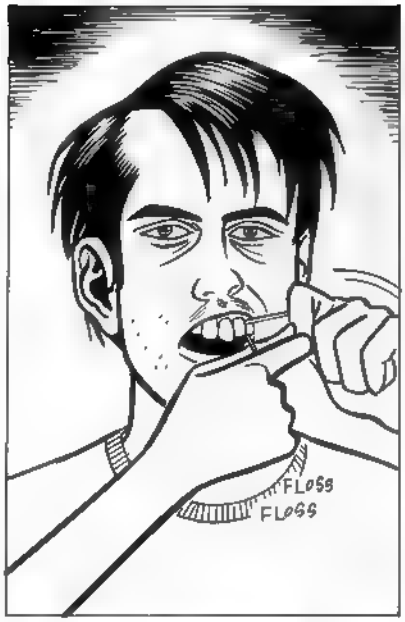
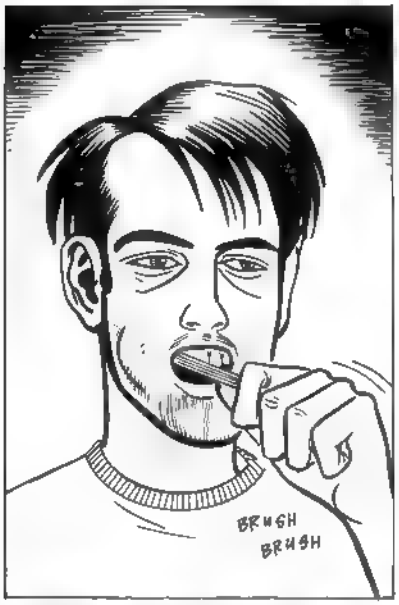
DANIEL G. CLOWES
in
JUST ANOTHER DAY...
by Daniel G. Clowes

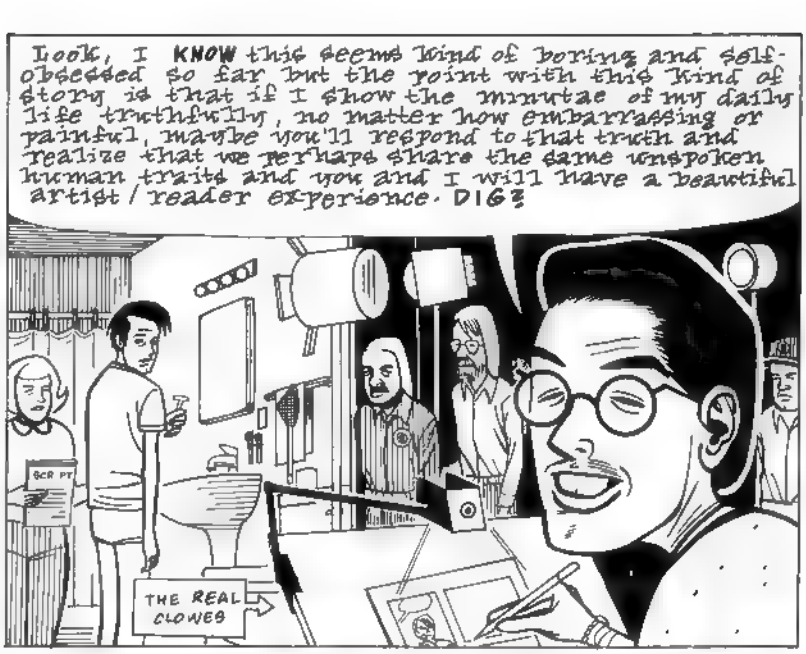

FLOSS
FLOSS


BRUSH
BRUSH

PTOOo

BRUA
PSSSHH

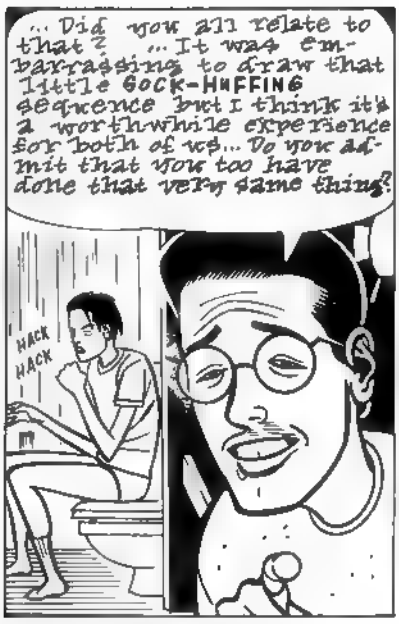
Okay, CUT! Hold it just for a second, Steve baby! Lemme talk to the readers a minute...

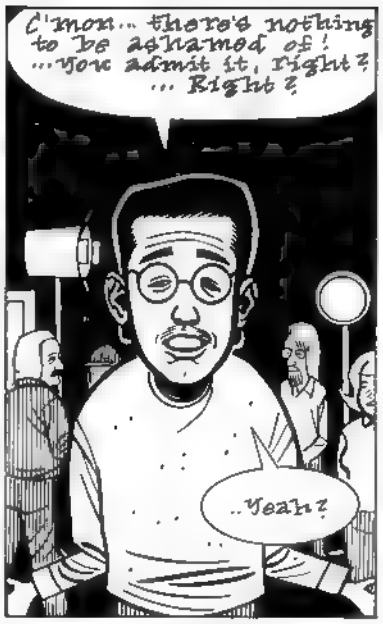

Look, I KNOW this seems kind of boring and self-obsessed so far but the point with this kind of story is that if I show the minutae of my daily life truthfully, no matter how embarrassing or painful, maybe you'll respond to that truth and realize that we perhaps share the same unspoken human traits and you and I will have a beautiful artist / reader experience. DIG?
SCRIPT
THE REAL CLOWES

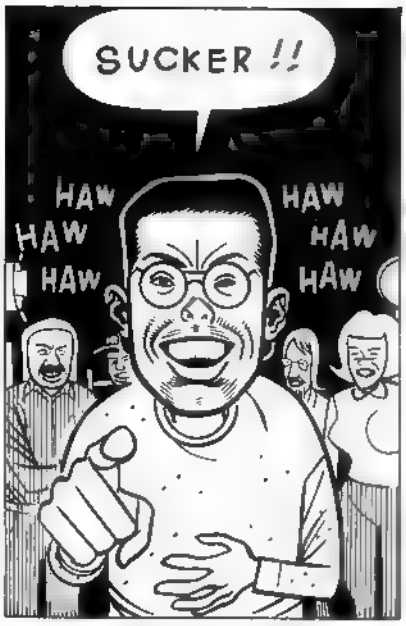
Okay, on with the story!

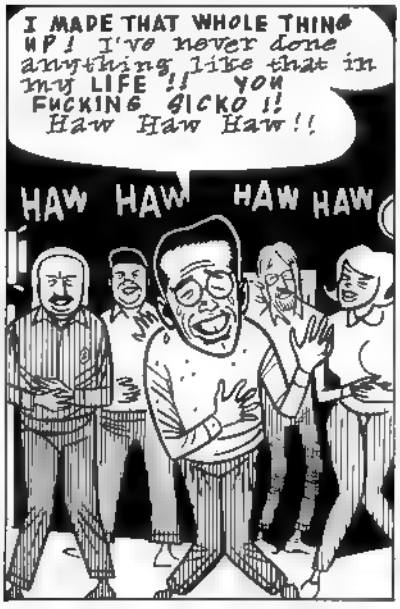
SNIFF SNIFF

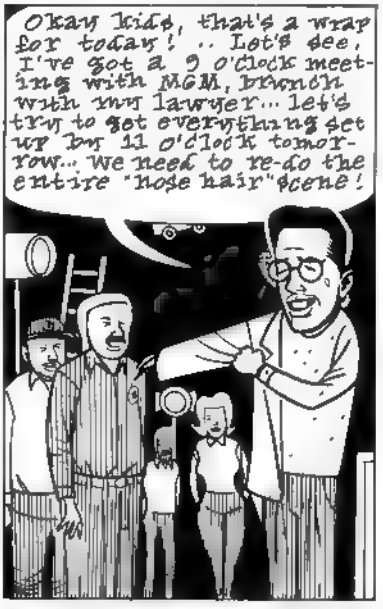
SNIFFFF
Okay, CUT!


...Did you all relate to that? ...It was embarrassing to draw that little SOCK-HUFFING sequence but I think it's a worthwhile experience for both of us... Do you admit that you too have done that very same thing?
HACK HACK


C'mon... there's nothing to be ashamed of! ...You admit it, right? ... Right?
...Yeah?


SUCKER !!
HAW HAW HAW
HAW HAW HAW


I MADE THAT WHOLE THING UP! I've never done anything like that in my LIFE !! YOU FUCKING SICKO !! Haw Haw Haw!!
HAW HAW HAW HAW


Okay kids, that's a wrap for today! .. Let's see, I've got a 9 o'clock meeting with MGM, brunch with my lawyer... let's try to get everything set up by 11 o'clock tomorrow... We need to re-do the entire "nose hair" scene!

Be good, people! Ciao!
SLAM!

...Hey Charlie you sonuva-bitch, how are the negotiations going? ...Fuck 'em! If we don't get the points, we're taking it to another studio! ...HAW HAW HAW! Hey, I think my people found an actor to play Dan Fugsey for the mini-series ...He's looking for a vehicle to BLAH BLAH ETC.

WH- WHAT AM I DOING? WHY AM I DRAWING MYSELF LIKE THIS? WHY AM I SO FILLED WITH SELF-HATRED?? I'M NO BIG-SHOT WHEELER-DEALER ... I'M A SENSITIVE ARTISTE!
THE REAL REAL CLOWES

... I GUESS I'M JUST ASHAMED OF MYSELF FOR GETTING SO SWELL-HEADED WHENEVER I GET ANY "MEDIA" ATTENTION...

BUTT BRAIN
THE FANZINE OF INSANE OBSCURE NONSENSE
• THE INSIGNIFICANT SPECKS
• THE HUMBLE LESS LEERING
• EIGHTBALL

...IT'S WEIRD TRYING TO DO COMICS ABOUT YOURSELF... IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BE OBJECTIVE...THE WAY YOU DEPICT YOURSELF REALLY DEPENDS ON HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT YOURSELF AND THAT CAN CHANGE EVERY TWO MINUTES...

BUT IT'S EVEN MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT... LIKE, YOU HAVE TO DECIDE HOW MUCH YOU'RE WILLING TO EMBARRASS YOURSELF AND IF YOU **ARE** WILLING TO EMBARRASS YOURSELF YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE IT'S NOT JUST TO SHOW WHAT A COOL, HONEST GUY YOU ARE.. STUFF LIKE THAT... IT'S AN AGONIZING STRUGGLE!

LIKE JUST THEN I WASN'T BEING HONEST WITH YOU. I DREW MYSELF AS AN ***INTROSPECTIVE, WHINING WIMP*** JUST SO I COULD MORE EASILY EXPRESS MY ***INNER FEELINGS.*** IN REALITY I'M A ***TAKE-CHARGE*** KINDA GUY WHO ISN'T AFRAID TO ***KICK ASS*** WHEN THE SITUATION DEMANDS IT! I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO FUCK PEOPLE UP WHEN THEY GIVE ME SHIT!

NO GUTS, NO GLORY!
GO AHEAD, BURN **THIS** FLAG!
YOU AND WHAT ARMY?
MAKE MY DAY!
DUKES OF HAZZARD
BEER
OPERATION DESERT SHIELD
CRUMPLE
THE ACTUAL, REALLY REAL CLOWES

OKAY, MAYBE THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT EITHER... I'M MORE KIND OF A YIPPIE / REVOLUTIONARY / UNDERGROUND TYPE O' GUY... LIKE ONE OF THE **WEATHERMEN**... O-OR THE **FREAK BROTHERS**... ...LIKE AN ***IN-THE-TRENCHES,*** ANTI ESTABLISHMENT, COUNTER-CULTURE KIND OF...

CRUMPLE
SQUEEK
HAIRCUT NOW RED BY "BERNIE" FROM "ROOM 222"
CLOWES, HONEST TO-GOD

... BUT NOT REALLY, I SUPPOSE... I MEAN, I DON'T HAVE A 'POLITICAL AGENDA' ... I'M MORE OF A DETACHED OBSERVER... A SCHOLAR OF SORTS, THOUGH I'M CERTAINLY NO EXPERT... KIND OF A STUDIOUS, SELF-EDUCATED... UM... LIKE A... YOU KNOW... A...

UFO'S
HEADSHRINK
JAI-ALAI
RIIPP
YOU GET THE IDEA, RIGHT?

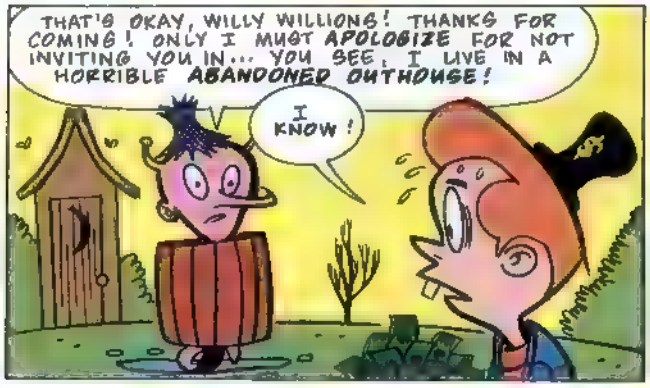
TO BE HONEST, I GUESS I'M EMBARRASSED TO ADMIT IT BUT LOOKING AT IT OBJECTIVELY I'M PROBABLY JUST A TYPICAL, SQUARE, BLAND, AMERICAN 'CARTOONIST'...LIKE CHARLES SCHULZ OR THE GUY WHO DRAWS 'GARFIELD'.!

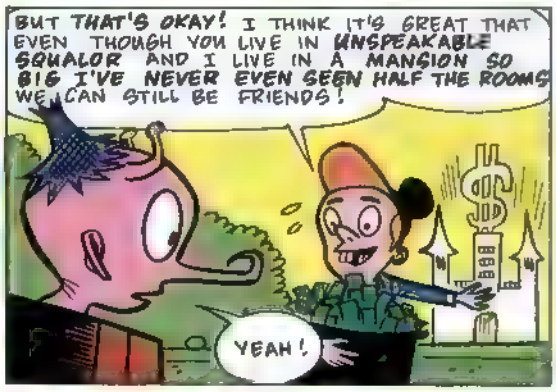
CRUMPLE
ASSISTANT

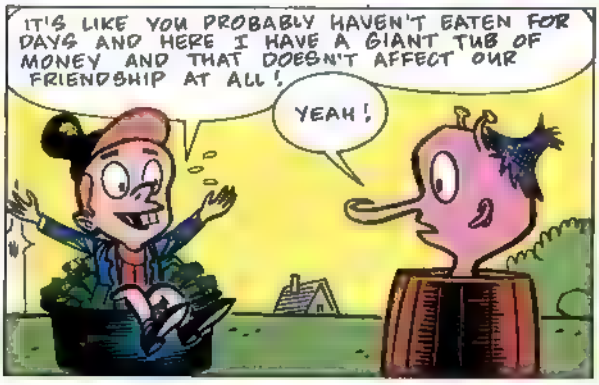
OKAY, SO I'M A **CROSS-DRESSING, ABSYNTHE-DRINKING, NECROPHILIAC SNUFF-BOX COLLECTOR!** ...

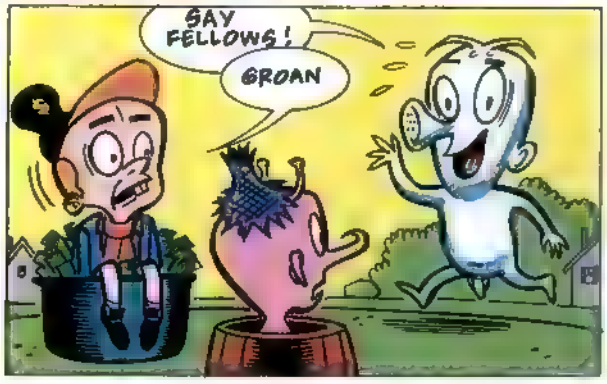
CRUMPLE
ETC., ETC.

PLAYFUL
Obsession
Starring
WILLIE WILLIONS
INSIGNIFICANT SHRIMP
GREGG
LITTLE OCTAGON
OBESITY HOPKINS
SWEET GAL
POTHEAD
I. SHRIMP
THANKS FOR INVITING ME OVER, INSIGNIFICANT SHRIMP!
BY DANIEL CLOWES

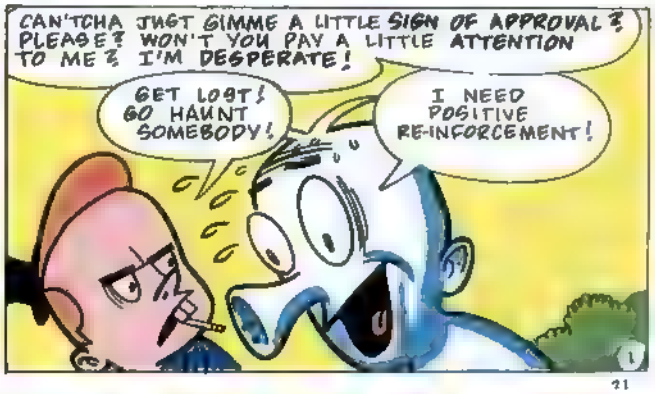

THAT'S OKAY, WILLY WILLIONS! THANKS FOR COMING! ONLY I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR NOT INVITING YOU IN... YOU SEE, I LIVE IN A HORRIBLE ABANDONED OUTHOUSE!
I KNOW!

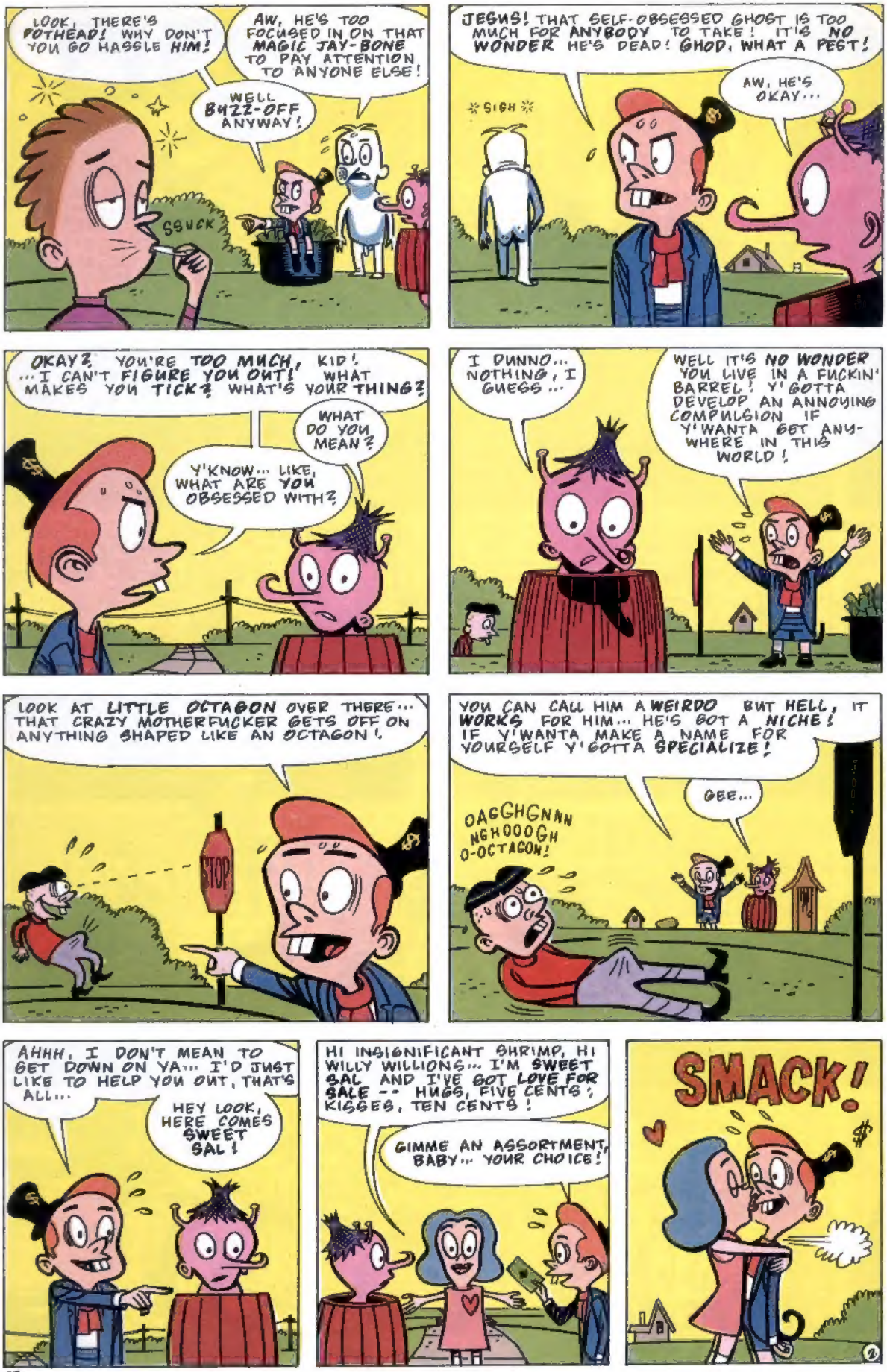

BUT THAT'S OKAY! I THINK IT'S GREAT THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU LIVE IN UNSPEAKABLE SQUALOR AND I LIVE IN A MANSION SO BIG I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HALF THE ROOMS WE CAN STILL BE FRIENDS!
YEAH!

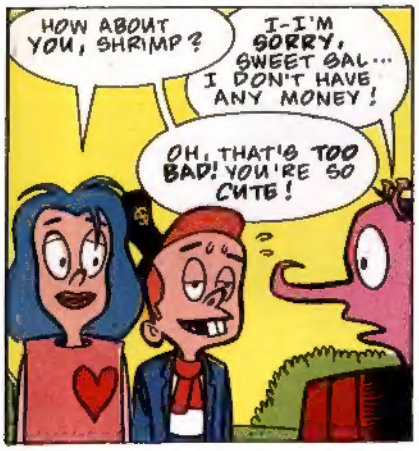

IT'S LIKE YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T EATEN FOR DAYS AND HERE I HAVE A GIANT TUB OF MONEY AND THAT DOESN'T AFFECT OUR FRIENDSHIP AT ALL!
YEAH!


SAY FELLOWS!
GROAN

WHAT DO YOU WANT, GREGG? (AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW)
YOU LIKE ME, DON'T YOU WILLY? I MEAN... I'M NOT SO BAD... RIGHT?
C'MON MAN, I GOT LOW SELF-ESTEEM!


CAN'TCHA JUST GIMME A LITTLE SIGN OF APPROVAL? PLEASE? WON'T YOU PAY A LITTLE ATTENTION TO ME? I'M DESPERATE!
GET LOST! GO HAUNT SOMEBODY!
I NEED POSITIVE RE-INFORCEMENT!

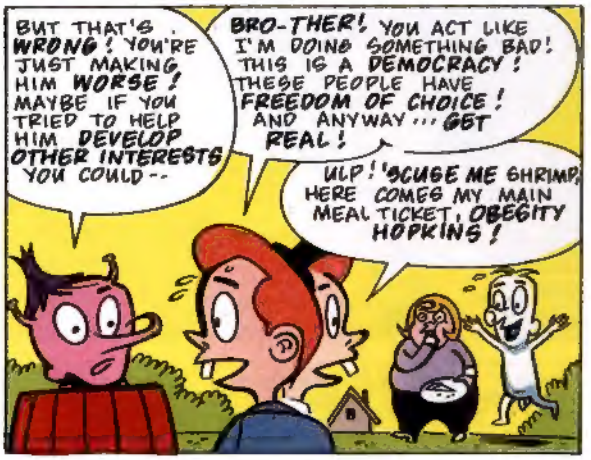

LOOK, THERE'S POTHEAD! WHY DON'T YOU GO HASSLE HIM!
AW, HE'S TOO FOCUSED IN ON THAT MAGIC JAY-BONE TO PAY ATTENTION TO ANYONE ELSE!
WELL BUZZ-OFF ANYWAY!
SSUCK
JESUS! THAT SELF-OBSESSED GHOST IS TOO MUCH FOR ANYBODY TO TAKE! IT'S NO WONDER HE'S DEAD! GHOD, WHAT A PEST!
AW, HE'S OKAY...
SIGH
OKAY? YOU'RE TOO MUCH, KID! ...I CAN'T FIGURE YOU OUT! WHAT MAKES YOU TICK? WHAT'S YOUR THING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
Y'KNOW... LIKE, WHAT ARE YOU OBSESSED WITH?
I DUNNO... NOTHING, I GUESS...
WELL IT'S NO WONDER YOU LIVE IN A FUCKIN' BARREL! Y'GOTTA DEVELOP AN ANNOYING COMPULSION IF Y'WANTA GET ANYWHERE IN THIS WORLD!
LOOK AT LITTLE OCTAGON OVER THERE... THAT CRAZY MOTHERFUCKER GETS OFF ON ANYTHING SHAPED LIKE AN OCTAGON!
STOP
YOU CAN CALL HIM A WEIRDO BUT HELL, IT WORKS FOR HIM... HE'S GOT A NICHE! IF Y'WANTA MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF Y'GOTTA SPECIALIZE!
GEE...
OAGGHGNNN NGHOOOGH O-OCTAGON!
AHHH, I DON'T MEAN TO GET DOWN ON YA... I'D JUST LIKE TO HELP YOU OUT, THAT'S ALL...
HEY LOOK, HERE COMES SWEET SAL!
HI INSIGNIFICANT SHRIMP, HI WILLY WILLIONS... I'M SWEET SAL AND I'VE GOT LOVE FOR SALE -- HUGS, FIVE CENTS; KISSES, TEN CENTS!
GIMME AN ASSORTMENT, BABY... YOUR CHOICE!
SMACK!


HOW ABOUT YOU, SHRIMP?
I-I'M SORRY, SWEET SAL... I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!
OH, THAT'S TOO BAD! YOU'RE SO CUTE!

SAL, I'D LIKE TO SAMPLE SOME MORE OF YOUR WARES TONIGHT! HERE'S A RETAINER. MEET ME AT THE OLD LOG INN AT SEVEN O'CLOCK!
OKAY! 'BYE BOYS!

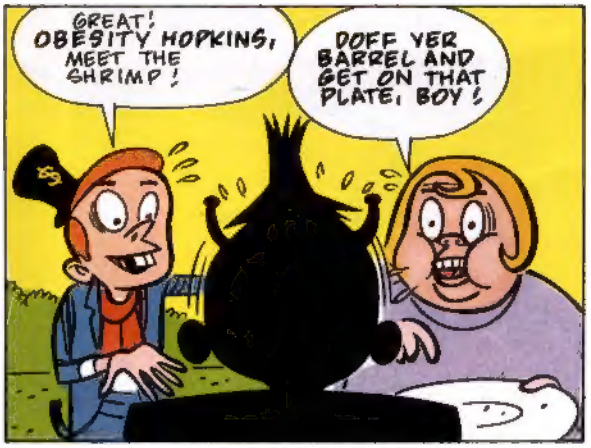
Y'KNOW, IT'S FUNNY, SHRIMP BUT I DON'T REALLY LIKE SAL -- IT'S ALL TIED IN TO THE MONEY THING -- BUT YOU REALLY DO LIKE HER, AND SHE LIKES YOU... AND YET IT'S ME THAT GETS THE HUGS AND KISSES... WHAT A CRAZY FUCKIN' WORLD HAW HAW HAW!

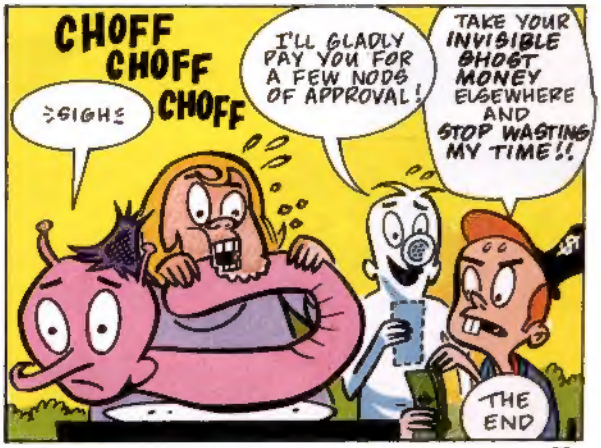
HOW DID YOU EVER GET SO MUCH MONEY, ANYWAY?
ARE YOU KIDDING? AROUND HERE IT'S A SNAP! TAKE LITTLE OCTAGON -- ALL I GOTTA DO IS CUT OUT AN EIGHT-SIDED FIGURE FROM ANY OL' PIECE O' PAPER AND NAME MY PRICE!


BUT THAT'S WRONG! YOU'RE JUST MAKING HIM WORSE! MAYBE IF YOU TRIED TO HELP HIM DEVELOP OTHER INTERESTS YOU COULD --
BRO-THER! YOU ACT LIKE I'M DOING SOMETHING BAD! THIS IS A DEMOCRACY! THESE PEOPLE HAVE FREEDOM OF CHOICE! AND ANYWAY... GET REAL!
ULP! 'SCUSE ME SHRIMP, HERE COMES MY MAIN MEAL TICKET, OBESITY HOPKINS!

HI GREGG!
HI...
Y'KNOW GREGG... YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL SO BAD... I LIKE YOU!
MMF! BIG FUCKING DEAL, SHRIMP.
BZZZ BZZZ

HEY SHRIMP! HOW'D YA LIKE TO HAVE A FEW NICKELS TO BUY SOME HUGS 'N' KISSES FROM SWEET SAL?
WOULD I!
OKAY, BUT FIRST Y'GOTTA DO A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR ME...
ANYTHING!


GREAT! OBESITY HOPKINS, MEET THE SHRIMP!
DOFF YER BARREL AND GET ON THAT PLATE, BOY!


CHOFF CHOFF CHOFF
SIGH
I'LL GLADLY PAY YOU FOR A FEW NODS OF APPROVAL!
TAKE YOUR INVISIBLE GHOST MONEY ELSEWHERE AND STOP WASTING MY TIME!!
THE END

Didja ever have that feeling that everybody else in the world is a robot, and you're just an unwitting TEST SUBJECT for the human race? That everything is staged for YOUR BENEFIT to gauge your reactions? That you're being monitored at all times? That everyone is in on the COSMIC JOKE but you? Man, are you...

PARANOID

What's he doing now?

HAW HAW! He's PICKING his NOSE with one hand, rearranging his JEWELS with the other... and watching "THE COURTSHIP OF EDDIE'S FATHER!"

What a DOUCHE!

♫ People let me tell ya 'bout my be-est friend... ♫

GOD

GOD'S FRIEND

GOD'S MAGIC TELESCOPE

THINK ABOUT IT! How do you know that any so-called "history" really happened? Why? Because some BOOK says so?

B-But how does the author actually KNOW all this... He wasn't even born...

PERRY SNOID, HIMSELF

THE SPLENDOR THAT WAS THE CIVIL WAR

In fact, do you really know that anything you haven't ACTUALLY SEEN with your OWN EYES is true?

S-But how can you be SURE they landed on the moon? It could've been special effects e-or...

Or for that matter, how do you know that you can trust your own senses? Have you ever thought about how UNCERTAIN your perceptions really are?

S-Stop smiling at me! WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT?

OF COURSE NOT! You've never thought about any of these things for ONE MINUTE! You're not even listening to me because YOU'RE ONE OF THEM!!

END?

YOU DOWN WITH DCP?